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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vanessa Brock Found Guilty of Insurance Fraud

BALTIMORE, MD (July 25, 2003) – The Maryland Insurance Administration's (MIA) Insurance Fraud Division in conjunction with the Maryland State Regional Auto Theft Team today announced the resolution of charges brought against Vanessa Brock of Southeast Baltimore for felony insurance fraud.

In September 2002, Brock reported her 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier stolen to Baltimore City Police and then filed a claim with State Farm Insurance Company. The total amount of the claim to State Farm including expenses for a rental car would have amounted to nearly \$3,000. When the vehicle was recovered the following day, it showed no evidence of being broken into, but did display damage to the left front bumper, headlight and hood. An investigation revealed that, in August of 2002, Brock had filed a claim with her previous insurance company, Nationwide Insurance Company, for damages sustained in an accident. This claim was denied because Brock's boyfriend was reported to be driving and found at fault. The damages presented in the State Farm claim were the same damages presented in the Nationwide Claim.

As a result, Brock was charged with felony insurance fraud under Maryland Insurance Article 27-403(2) and one count of felony theft under Maryland Criminal Law Article 7-104.

On July 24, 2003 in the District Court for Baltimore City before the Honorable Nathan Braverman, Judge, Vanessa Brock proceeded on a not guilty statement of facts. Judge Braverman found Brock guilty and sentenced her to one year of supervised probation, 40 hours of community service and ordered that she make restitution to State Farm Insurance Company in the amount of \$753 for reimbursements she had already received under the claim. He also ordered that Brock pay the court costs. Judge Braverman stipulated that, if Brock completes all the above requirements by December 20, 2003, the sentence would be modified to Probation Before Judgement.

The Insurance Fraud Division is a department of the Maryland Insurance Administration and consists of staff of the Maryland State Police, the Office of the Attorney General and fraud investigators of the MIA. The division receives cases from anonymous tips to its hotline, 1-800-846-4069, and from referrals by insurance companies and other individuals.